

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to obtain allowance of the allowable material pointed out by the Examiner.

Claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled and their substance incorporated into Claim 1. Claim dependencies have been corrected so all remaining claims between Claim 1 and Claim 17 either depend directly or indirectly from amended Claim 1. Therefore all of those claims should now be allowable.

Similarly, Claims 28-29 have been cancelled and their substance incorporated into base Claim 18. Claim dependencies have been corrected so all remaining claims between Claim 18 and Claim 33 either depend directly or indirectly from amended Claim 18. Therefore all of those claims should now be allowable.

Claims 40-41 have been cancelled and their substance incorporated into base Claim 34. Claim dependencies have been corrected so all remaining claims between Claim 34 and Claim 43 either depend directly or indirectly from amended Claim 1. Therefore all of those claims should now be allowable. New Claim 44 has been added. This claim contains the same limitation as Claim 16 and was accidentally omitted from the application. Its lack was pointed out by one of the inventors.

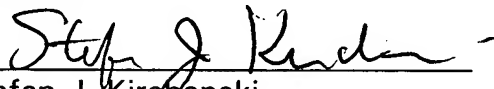
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner has any questions or still finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number listed below to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. You are hereby authorized to charge any fees due and refund any surplus fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-2567.

Respectfully submitted,

REED SMITH LLP

Date: 16 June 2004

By: 
Stefan J. Kirchanski
Registration No. 36,568
Attorney for Applicants

1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Telephone: (310) 734-5200
Facsimile: (310) 734-5299